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THE INFINITE PATHOS

Seldom has the nation been more openly moved than by the death of Lieut.-Col. Charles W. Whittlesey, who was the commander of "The Lost Battalion." Invincible in war, Colonel Whittlesey's heart broke when peace brought time for meditation upon war's horrors. Not physical danger could crush him; only the memories of a finely wrought man, with eyes to see and a mind to reason and a soul to agonize. In the *New York Times* of November 28 is an account of Colonel Whittlesey's death that is informing. In part, it follows:

His death was undoubtedly an aftermath of the war. Colonel Whittlesey had an extremely sensitive nature, and the horrors of what he saw on the battlefields of France had preyed upon his mind. He had been deeply affected by the ceremonies at the burial of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington on Armistice Day—ceremonies in which he had participated as a pall-bearer.

Only last Sunday night he had attended an entertainment in honor of Marshal Foch at the Hippodrome, and had sat on the stage among many wounded men, some of them armless and legless, and this experience had added to a weight of horror that he was unable to shake from his mind.

Even before the war Colonel Whittlesey had never been in robust health. One of his friends remarked that he was the last man on earth one would expect to turn out a war hero. The hardships of army life, coupled with a touch of gas, had left its mark upon his system. His friends said last night that he had suffered from a racking cough for weeks, and that he used to wake up early mornings in his home at 136 East Forty-fourth Street with coughing spells that were heard by the other young men who lived with him there.

In addition he had been devoting all the time he could spare from his law practice in the firm of White & Case, 14 Wall Street, for the last month to special duties as chairman of the New York County Chapter of the 1922 Red Cross Roll Call, and had given the same whole-hearted attention to the Red Cross efforts to enroll 500,000 members between Armistice Day and Thanksgiving Day as he had given to his battalion.

LEFT NEW YORK FRIDAY

The last words he spoke to any of his friends in New York illustrated his state of mind. Last Friday night, before he sailed for Havana, he called Miss Sullivan, the housekeeper of the residence on East Forty-fourth Street, and after telling her to get his breakfast at 8 o'clock the next morning, said: "I'm going away to be alone for a few days. I am tired."

Neither to the housekeeper, to his relatives, to his intimate friends, nor to his business associates did Colonel Whittlesey confide his intention to end his life. He did not even let them know that he was going to take a sea voyage. When the news came by wireless from the *Tolosa* yesterday no one believed it at first, for all who knew him thought that he was merely on a week-end trip to see his father in Pittsfield, Mass., and would return to his office today.

The first message was received about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon at the offices of the United Fruit Company, 17 Battery Place. It was from Captain Grant, master of the *Tolosa*, notifying his company that Colonel Whittlesey, a passenger on the ship, had disappeared on Sunday. Grant asked that relatives be notified. John B. Pruyn, of 2 Rector Street, former law partner of Whittlesey and an executor of his will, who is also counsel to the United Fruit Company, happened to be in the steamship office at the time the message was received, and was notified at once.

LETTERS FOR FATHER AND BROTHERS

About an hour later Mr. Pruyn received another wireless at his own office from Captain Grant, notifying him directly that Colonel Whittlesey had disappeared from the ship at sea on Sunday morning, and had left a letter for the captain, asking him to notify Colonel Whittlesey's father,

Frank R. Whittlesey, of Pittsfield, Mass., and his brothers, Melzar Whittlesey, of 42 East Seventy-eighth Street, and Elisha Whittlesey, of 136 East Forty-fourth Street. Grant asked Pruyn to notify the relatives, and added that he was "sending papers." It is expected that Colonel Whittlesey left an explanatory letter for Mr. Pruyn, who was his most intimate friend, and that this message will be transferred from the *Tolosa*, which is making a Canal Zone voyage, to another ship bound for New York at Havana.

Robert F. Little, of Garden City, another intimate friend of Colonel Whittlesey, who was associated with him in the law firm of White & Case, also received a wireless message from the Master of the *Tolosa* late yesterday afternoon. The message to Little said: "Charles Whittlesey disappeared yesterday. Left following message: 'Look in upper left-hand drawer of my desk for memoranda of law matter I have been attending to. I shall not return.'"

Melzar Whittlesey, who had not known his brother had sailed on the *Tolosa*, had called at the office of White & Case for him earlier in the afternoon and had been informed that his brother would be back on Tuesday. He would not believe Mr. Pruyn when the latter first telephoned him about 6 o'clock last night, but was convinced by the sight of the wireless message, which he took with him to Pittsfield last night to show to his father.

Mrs. Melzar Whittlesey said last night at her home that the other brother, Elisha, who had been living with Colonel Whittlesey at 136 East Forty-fourth Street, is now with his parents at Pittsfield. Mr. Whittlesey said: "Elisha has been ill for weeks past with an abnormally high temperature, but the doctors cannot tell what the trouble is. He and Colonel Whittlesey both suffered from the terrible after-effects of the war in some mysterious fashion. Colonel Whittlesey was here only last Sunday with his father, who had come down from Pittsfield to visit us all."

"He never talked about his experiences in the war and, with characteristic silence, said nothing about the burial of the unknown soldier. But after dinner my husband asked him how he had been impressed by the ceremonies, and he replied that it had made a profoundly deep impression upon him."

SUPPRESSED NERVOUS TEMPERAMENT

"He was a man of finely wrought nerves, which he always kept under control. It was his suppressed nervous temperament that made him stand out among men. One can imagine how a man of that kind would feel the horrors of war, and how his attendance at the burial of the Unknown Soldier would bring back to his mind the sight of boys of his battalion dying on the field in France. No doubt he often thought that the Unknown Soldier might have been one of his own men."

Mrs. Whittlesey notified Captain George C. McMurtry, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor at the same time as did Colonel Whittlesey, but Captain McMurtry refused to believe the news. Captain McMurtry and others of Colonel Whittlesey's comrades undoubtedly will get together today in order to arrange some mark of respect and honor for their dead leader.

At the home of Mr. Pruyn at 244 Riverside Drive it was said last night that Colonel Whittlesey had visited there on Wednesday evening and on the afternoon of Thanksgiving Day, and had appeared in unusually cheerful spirits.

BROUGHT PINS FOR BABY

"Mr. Pruyn and Colonel Whittlesey were the most intimate of friends," said Marguerite Babcock, Mr. Pruyn's sister-in-law. "He and I stood up with my sister and Mr. Pruyn at their wedding. Thanksgiving Day was the birthday of my sister's year-old baby, and Colonel Whittlesey came here during the afternoon and was in very gay spirits. He brought some baby pins for the little one."

"He was usually very quiet. He never talked about the war, and we never dared ask him about it. This was due partly to his modesty and partly to his sensitiveness to the horror of war. We are all convinced that it was the burial of the Unknown Soldier that was the climax to his mental suffering because of the war. He was the sort of man who would say: 'Look at that poor fellow, and think of all the poor boys who were killed. What right have I to be alive?'"

"But he never confided any of these thoughts to any of us. The last week his cheerfulness was in great contrast to his usual solemnity. That is what we cannot understand, unless he had made up his mind to take his life, and felt better that he had decided it. On Friday night he even went to the theater with his oldest woman friend, the night before he started on this voyage."

SAYETH THE RED CROSS, WHICH KNOWS WAR

From the Joint Council of the Red Cross, that organization of wonderful service in easing agonies of millions of human beings due to war, comes an appeal to the world for peace. It is a solemn and yet a moving document, and it seems fitting that it should be read by all men and women, now that the statesmen of the great nations are gathered in Washington and the public opinion of the world is pouring down upon them for peace.

This is the Red Cross appeal:

In conformity with a resolution adopted at the Tenth International Conference of the Red Cross, held at Geneva, Switzerland, last spring, providing for a joint address, by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to all nations, exhorting them "to combat the spirit of war which dominates the world," the following appeal has been issued from Geneva:

In virtue of a higher law and duty, and of principles above the level of human passions, the helping hand of the Red Cross was stretched forth to all victims throughout the ordeal of the World War.

Today the Red Cross owes it to itself and to all its many workers to proclaim as an ideal and a practical intention, a struggle against the horrors of war, an attempt by world-wide help and unselfishness definitely to abolish war.

The mere continuation of Red Cross activity in time of peace will no longer suffice. It is the wish of the Red Cross to work in the interest of peace.

Therefore the Red Cross calls upon all whole-hearted citizens, irrespective of nationality, religious belief, profession, or social rank, to join, as far as lies in their power, in a systematic campaign against that spirit of war which is a constant menace to the world's peace.

During five years millions of men were killed or mutilated. Today thousands of ex-soldiers or prisoners, at last set free, bear indelible marks of bodily and mental suffering. All of them believed that the generations to come would reap the fruits of the great ordeal in a new international life, which would be more brotherly, franker, and more full.

Instead, disorder and uncertainty, distrust and greed, hatred and the threat of fresh quarrels are reappearing throughout the world. The spirit of war, unconquered, reigns supreme. Its sinister influence is evident. It inspires lines of policy and press campaigns, which lead public opinion astray and embitter the economic competition among nations.

During the terrible years of the recent war superhuman efforts were required of the different nations. In order to inspire such sacrifices, a supreme reward was promised—namely, the annihilation of this same spirit of war, which is a peril as old as the world and a constant menace to mankind.

Thus generations yet unborn would have been delivered from the scourge at the price of the suffering which the war entailed. This hope sustained nations and armies.

Have they hoped in vain?

Have millions of human lives and the wealth of nations been sacrificed in vain?

Faced with these questions, the Red Cross recognized a duty.

At the suggestion of Senator Ciraolo, chairman of the Italian Red Cross, the tenth International Red Cross Conference, which met at Geneva on April 1, 1921, voted the following resolution:

"The International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies shall address an appeal to all nations, exhorting them to combat the spirit of war, which dominates the world."

These two organizations call, therefore, on nations and individuals to fight with all means in their power this maleficent spirit. May statesmen, writers, school and university, capital and labor, remember that it is their duty, in the interest of mankind, to help peace to conquer the earth. Above all, children should be brought up in this fundamental belief.

It is essential that the human mind should once more be open to the broad lines of an internationalism which, while allowing the citizen to love his town and the patriot his country, teaches all men to respect the existence and the rights of their fellows, by bringing into the daily life the individual light of a justice which is to be in all the world for all time.

This true internationalism cannot be attained without the active and intimate co-operation of governments, parliaments, voluntary organizations, the press, the clergy, and, above all, national Red Cross Societies. To the union of these forces must be added a supreme factor—the power of *individual conviction*. Every man, as far as lies in his power, must contribute to make peace permanent in the world.

The individual must no longer see the world in the light of his own selfishness, anger, fear, and human passion, but in a spirit of concord and mutual aid.

Thus only can a better future be prepared.

Faithful to the ideal which inspired its founders and which it has ever served, the Red Cross hereby declares before the whole world that its work does not end with war. The Red Cross appeals to the heart of all mankind, that each individual may find in himself the needful strength and determination to make and keep universal peace.

For the joint council:

THE PRESIDENT,
GUSTAVE ADOR,
*President of the International
Committee of the Red Cross.*
CLAUDE H. A. HILL,
*Acting Director General,
League of Red Cross Societies.*

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

REPORTS FROM ENGLAND are that Lord Grey has returned to active participation in political affairs and is being welcomed by Liberal forces. He made a speech recently at Berwick that was warmly welcomed by those who are fighting an uphill fight against Lloyd-George's methods. The basis of his speech was that the British nation is suffering from dire confusion in its affairs, due to lack of a settled and consistent policy, even in affairs of the largest moment. He suggested that possibly this confusion is due to the union in the same government of men of widely divergent principles and views, and that Premier Lloyd-George humors first one party in his coalition government and then another. The point was made that hundreds of millions were spent in military enterprises in Russia and Mesopotamia, only to have the government recognize finally that the effort was futile, and that after a reign of violence in Ireland the present healing process was inaugurated.

FROM THE ZEITUNG AM MITTAG, OF BERLIN, is gleaned this morsel of humor, in which some Americans are the parties of the second part:

The Czecho-Slovak Foreign Minister received recently a letter in which a New York lawyer politely asked to whom the Hradschin belonged.